
Subject: Re: Please help me avoid loops and conditionals
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 10 Sep 2003 17:06:43 GMT
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Patrick Ford writes:

> The second is related to the same program. I want to take a string of
> 4 contiguous bytes and convert them into a long unsigned or signed
> integer. I remember doing this in Fortran, Pascal and C with some
> variations on a theme of having variables of type byte and long point
> to the same memory location. Is there some clever way of doing the
> same in IDL? My current klugy method is based on the following:
>
> $R = \text{ary}(p) + (16 * \text{ary}(p+1)) + (16^2 * \text{ary}(p+2)) + (16^3 * \text{ary}(p+3))$
>
> Where ary is a byte array.

This is what the LONG and ULONG functions are used for.
The first positional parameter is the byte array you want
to read from and the second positional parameter is
the offset into the array.

number = Long(ary, 16) ; skip first 16 bytes, read next four.

Cheers,

David

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